

25 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Subject: Standing Committee of the IAC

1. You will recall that DCI 1/1 of 5 March 1948 set up formally the Standing Committee "to assist the IAC in performance of its functions." Former memos on this subject, and statements in the meetings of the IAC members indicated that this was to be a working committee to prepare papers that would subsequently be considered by the IAC.

2. That, however, does not seem to be the idea of the Army and Navy members of the Standing Committee. With them the old Board of Directors psychology still seems to prevail.

3. When the Standing Committee met for the first time on 22 March to discuss the IAC Agenda mentioned in the circular memo of 9 March (chiefly Scientific Attaches), Trueheart of AEC and Treacy of the Army maintained that they had completely wasted their time and were disgusted with the whole procedure. So on Monday, the 29th, another meeting is to be held at which Colonel Treacy is to submit his ideas of the procedures for this Standing Committee.

4. I would point out that at this first meeting about Scientific Attaches, in accordance with paragraph 5a of DCI 1/1, we invited representatives of the National Security Resources Board and the Research and Development Board and invited the regular Standing Committee members to bring people from their shops who were interested in this subject. Captain Davis of the Navy brought a naval captain from the Office of Naval Research and we had our own representatives from OO, ORE, and OCD. The State Department brought Mr. Strong and Fearing. The Army brought no one. Everybody apparently, with the exception of Treacy and Trueheart, found this exploratory meeting a valuable discussion. But those two seemed to think they are too busy to be concerned with roundtable discussions. We shall see what "procedures" Treacy comes up with next week.

5. I fear that if we do not have these roundtable discussion when writing up papers that the Standing Committee members will become miniature IAC members; that they will rarely, if ever, meet for discussions; and that nothing will ever be accomplished. It looks to me as if they are reverting to the old idea of an ad hoc committee to do the work - this time for the Standing Committee rather than for the IAC itself. i.e., the Standing Committee is just another intermediate step of no real value, but I may be unduly hasty and pessimistic in this view. From all I have heard and read, the IAC Chiefs expect this Standing Committee to be a working Committee so we think half a day every month would not be unduly burdensome for them. (perhaps they should know that yesterday's meeting of the National Security Council Staff lasted without interruption from 2:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.!!).

6. Although Colonel Treacy comes to these meetings, he alone of the IAC people has not been officially appointed, as have the others. Whether that is an oversight, or a dodge, of General Chamberlin's in bypassing this Committee, I do not know. The only one in his voting slip approving of DCI 1/1 who suggested an element of time was General Todd who said that his officers had other duties so that the time they give to IAC matters will reduce the time available for his agency matters. He suggested accordingly that the Standing Committee activities should be so conducted as to minimize the demands on the time of the agency representatives. Our work is so arranged that we may want to have two or three meetings in one month and then no meetings for a month or two, as it seems to take a couple of months for the agencies to get back their voting slips even after the papers have been prepared by their own members.

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